

## COMING FULL CIRCLE TESTING AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH

**T**raffic circles have a long history in the United States. The first traffic circle in the U.S. was Columbus Circle in New York City, which opened in 1905. What exactly is a traffic circle? Traffic circles are circular islands effective at reducing traffic speeds and the number and severity of collisions at intersections.

Studies have shown crash rates at intersections with traffic circles are significantly lower than at intersections with stop sign control.

The City is currently testing a temporary traffic circle made from recycled rubber tires at the intersection

of 101st Street and Utah Avenue. The intersection averages about one reported accident per year.

According to Traffic Management Coordinator Paul Jarvis, while the temporary circle is in place, City staff will be collecting data about how motorists respond to the intersection change.

“Our goal with the traffic circle is to reduce accidents, increase safety and minimize any impact, including noise and air pollution, to area residents,” Jarvis said.



The trial installation will be kept in place through the first snowfall to see how it operates in winter conditions.

For more information, contact Civil Engineer Amy Marohn at 952-563-4532.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: TRAFFIC CIRCLE.**

## IN THE SOUTH LOOP FAMILIAR DESTINATION IS REBRANDED WITH SUSTAINABILITY IN MIND

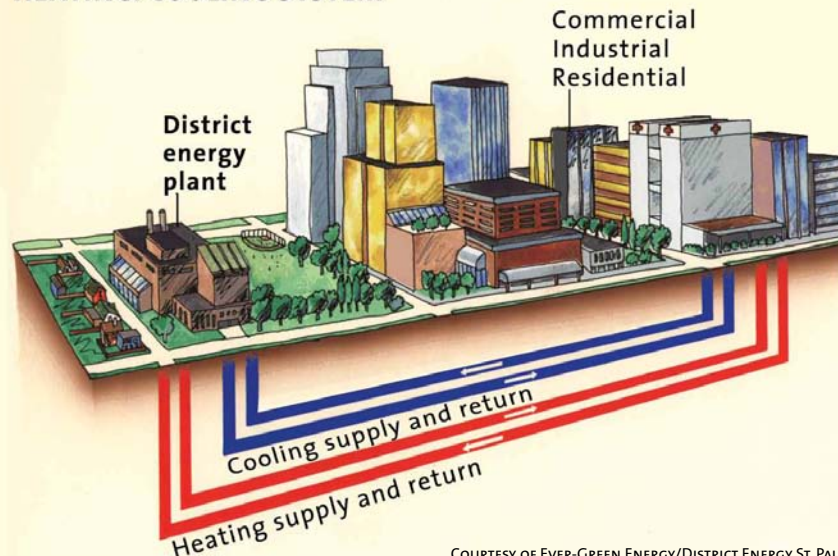
**U**rban. Energetic. Bustling. Transit-oriented. Sustainable. These are the words people will use to describe the South Loop District. South Loop is the new name for a familiar destination in east Bloomington that extends from I-494 on the north and TH 77 on the west to the Minnesota River on the south and east.

The City is developing a district plan to transform South Loop into a model for sustainable commerce and living. A major component of sustainability is access to efficient electric power and heating and cooling for buildings. Future development in the district will be accelerated by energy efficiency and conservation strategies that make the location a cost-effective choice for businesses and residents.

As part of a separate but concurrent study, the City is exploring the possibility of using district energy to supply efficient heating and cooling in the South Loop District.

Both downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul are served by district energy plants. Using renewable energy from a

### EXAMPLE: CENTRALIZED COMMUNITY HEATING/COOLING SYSTEM



COURTESY OF EVER-GREEN ENERGY/DISTRICT ENERGY ST. PAUL.

combined heat and power plant, District Energy St. Paul simultaneously produces about 65 megawatts of thermal energy for District Energy and 25 megawatts of electricity for Xcel Energy. The company currently heats more than 185 buildings and 300 single-family homes and cools more than 95 buildings in downtown St. Paul and adjacent areas.

Using similar technology, district energy could heat and cool the entire South Loop District. *See diagram above.*

The City's study hopes to identify ways for both new and existing development to increase efficiency,

reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and stabilize or reduce fuel and equipment costs.

Open houses were held in August to keep the community abreast of the progress on the South Loop District Plan and to share information with residents and businesses. The open houses were attended by more than 200 people.

Final recommendations and concepts for the district plan will be presented to the City Council early in 2011. For more information, visit the City's website.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SOUTH LOOP.**



### NEW NAME, NEW LOGO

**T**he name South Loop puts a fresh face on an area that contains two-thirds of Bloomington's development potential over the next 40 years.

South Loop has many notable assets such as an international airport, a national wildlife refuge, light rail and bus transit, the Mall of America and Bloomington Central Station development.

## INSIDE

### OCTOBER 2010

- PAGE 2** Mayor's column.  
**PAGE 3** News you can use.  
**PAGE 4** Earth Action Heroes.  
**PAGE 5** People2People.  
**PAGE 6** For your safety.  
**PAGE 7** Arts and community.  
**PAGE 8** Get out and vote.

When you see **WEBSITE KEYWORDS**, go to [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us) for more information.

## FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSES VISIT YOUR LOCAL FIRE STATION



**Saturday, October 9, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

- Station 1 - 10 West 95th Street.
- Station 2 - 10601 Xerxes Ave South.
- Station 3 - 2050 East 86th Street.
- Station 4 - 4201 West 84th Street.
- Station 5 - 10540 Bush Lake Road.
- Station 6 - 8601 Lakeview Road.

Highlights for this year's open houses include free t-shirts, coloring books and stickers, prizes, safety demonstrations at Station 1, Police and Public Works vehicle displays.

For more information, call Roxy Markkanen at 952-563-4801.

## A NIGHT TO REMEMBER NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



**T**his summer's National Night Out event produced 372 neighborhood parties, up from 352 last year. The parties drew visits from Police, Fire and other City representatives. In addition, 11 fire trucks and 4 Allina ambulances attended a number of parties. Donations were made by Toro, Bloomington Lock and Safe, Cub, Rainbow, Walmart and Target. Outback Steakhouse catered a neighborhood party for 50 people. For more information, call Crime Prevention Coordinator Niki Pierson at 952-563-8808.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON *BRIEFING*, OCTOBER 2010

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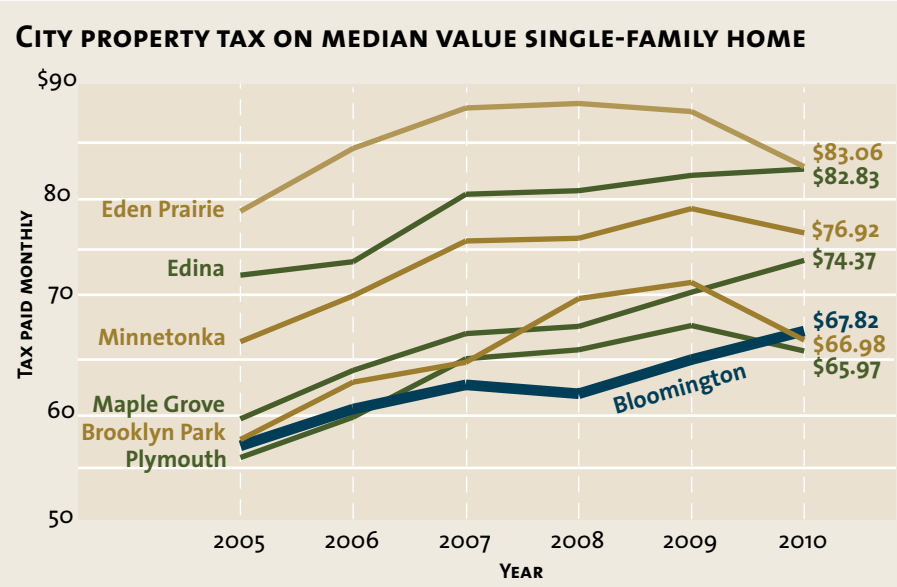
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1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD  
BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027

ON COURSE FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE  
LONG-TERM PLANNING CREATES A MORE SUSTAINABLE BLOOMINGTON

By Mayor Gene Winstead

Robust communities like Bloomington provide the opportunity to live close to neighbors and friends, while still being able to enjoy easy access to retail, culture, parks and recreation and educational opportunities. Bloomington offers valuable services such as public safety, transportation, and parks and recreation that would either not be available or much more expensive to provide in other communities.

Because of the unique package of benefits found in the metro area, the market values of properties are substantially higher than similar properties found in most communities in Greater Minnesota. Residents of communities like Bloomington find they can gain maximum benefit from jointly



sharing the risks, opportunities and rewards in both good times and bad.

While expectations of an improving economy and more stable property values exist, people are understandably concerned about the future. Reinvesting and maintaining public infrastructure is one way to reduce the overall cost of City services.

The City’s strong financial position, coupled with long-term budgeting strategies, help us manage in good and bad economic times. This allows the City to take advantage of the lower commodity prices in the downturn, which contributes to Bloomington being cost competitive in comparison to similar cities in Hennepin County. The graph above shows that in a comparison of seven metro suburbs, Bloomington is third lowest in average taxes paid by a single-family property owner.

The City is now finalizing the 2011 budget and property tax levy. The total property tax dollar levy for 2011 will be a slight decrease from the 2010 levy. This decrease means that the owner of a median-valued home will not see a change in 2011 in what they pay monthly for City property tax-supported services.

City services are provided to a home independent of its property value. Therefore, the cost of City services for a home on an 80-foot lot is the same whether that home is valued at \$200,000 or \$500,000. I often hear, “Why don’t property taxes and property values in Minnesota move in the same direction?” In Minnesota, local governments, including the City, school district and county, approve a total property tax dollar levy amount. Then that amount is divided by the total property tax capacity for the jurisdiction to yield the rate. This is the opposite of what is done in some other states where the local government sets the rate and the total property tax received is calculated based on the rate.

For example, the property value of a median-valued home in Bloomington, since 1996, has had an average annual value increase of 4.76 percent. The City’s total property tax dollar levy has averaged only a 3.72 percent increase during the same 15-year time frame. Thus, the property rate per dollar of

home value has declined over the last 15 years. In 2011, out of 15 Hennepin County cities with populations of more than 20,000, Bloomington will be the only city setting a preliminary levy that is less than the 2010 levy. (All 15 cities have experienced a tax base decrease, with our decline being average.)

Additionally, although the state has significant budget issues, several communities have set their preliminary budget and levy based on an assumption that they will receive State Aid revenues. Subsequent state cuts to deal with a projected \$5.8 billion shortfall could well reduce total general fund revenues in these cities and cause some to make additional service cuts. Bloomington has assumed that no local government aids or market value credit will be received; therefore, state reductions will not impact the City’s 2011 budget.

What’s the bottom line? Bloomington will continue to be among the most cost-competitive City service providers in Hennepin County.

As part of our ongoing strategy to be a sustainable community, we as a City Council review and prioritize all City services. *See graphic on left.* The most critical services, such as public safety and infrastructure, consume nearly 68 percent (\$46 a month) of the City’s total expenditures, followed by community safety, planning, prevention and maintenance, which constitute 16 percent (\$11 a month) of a homeowner’s monthly tax dollar. Quality of life services are also 16 percent (\$11 a month). Many arts and recreation services generate significant user revenue and have limited City property tax assistance. These services also help reduce public safety costs and add to the quality of life in Bloomington.

While we all differ in our priorities, by working together we gain mutual benefits and end up with a much better outcome. This team effort is how we operate as a City Council. None of us individually govern, but as a group we can be quite effective.

For more information on the 2011 budget, including access to the entire “Just the Facts” Mayoral series, visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: FINANCE.

Volume 18, Number 5

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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.

## BLOOMINGTON INNOVATORS LOCAL COMPANIES THAT INSPIRE

**D**uring the 1960s, Bloomington experienced a population boom as more and more businesses moved into the area. The City's slogan at the time was "All the businesses that will fit."

The fact that many major companies, including Toro, Donaldson, HeathPartners, Quality Bicycle Products (QBP) and ATMI LifeSciences, not to mention a booming hospitality industry, call Bloomington home, has earned the city more jobs per capita than either St. Paul or Minneapolis. Today, Bloomington's slogan could be "All the innovation that will fit."

A number of Bloomington businesses are breaking new ground – literally and figuratively – including ATMI LifeSciences, QBP and tenKsolar. These businesses are leading the way in their fields, making Bloomington the place to be for creative companies.



### THE "ULTRACLEAN" LEADERS

**ATMI LifeSciences**, producer of single-use disposable storage systems, mixers and bioreactors, is a Belgian company that just completed expansion of its Bloomington manufacturing facility on 10851 Louisiana Avenue. The expansion establishes Bloomington as the North American hub for ATMI's production and marketing of its bio-pharmaceutical products.

ATMI's product line includes a wide range of ultra clean, sterile packaging designed for the safe handling and storage of pharmaceutical liquids and powders.

According to CEO Doug Neugold, new jobs created by the Bloomington expansion range from assembly and testing to product engineering and manufacturing.



### THE SOLAR ENERGY DESIGNERS

Talk about innovative! **tenKsolar**, located at 9549 Penn Avenue South, is a research and development company that has more than 40 patents filed around its unique solar panel systems.

According to CEO Joel Cannon, tenKsolar's cell optimizing architecture makes its solar panel systems more efficient in their ability to generate energy from all available light, whether direct, diffused or reflected. The solar panels tenKsolar creates are designed to be lightweight, yet durable enough to handle 90 mph straight-line winds.

tenKsolar is currently a finalist for Red Herring's North America 100 Award, a prestigious list honoring the year's most promising private technology ventures in the country.

### THE BICYCLE ENVIRONMENTALISTS

As North America's largest bike parts supplier, **QBP** was recently featured in a *Minnesota Business* magazine article about Minnesota's booming bike economy.

As the leader in the bike parts industry, QBP supplies more than 5,000 dealers worldwide from their state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly distribution center in west Bloomington.

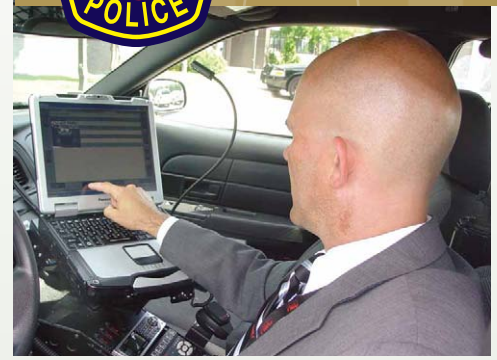
What do QBP, ATMI LifeSciences and tenKsolar have in common? They are all growing businesses thriving right in our own backyards – proving that innovation is alive and well in Bloomington.



If you know of an innovative Bloomington business breaking new ground in design or sustainability, contact Communications Administrator Janine Hill at 952-563-8819 or [jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us).



## ON PATROL



### LIGHTS, CAMERAS, ACTION!

**T**he Bloomington Police Department recently acquired Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) cameras for two of its patrol cars.

The ALPR cameras have the ability to scan thousands of license plates per shift with the purpose of flagging down license plates that have expired or have been associated with a crime. The cameras automatically scan license plates as officers patrol Bloomington streets. If there's a match, an alarm will sound. Once a match is detected, the officer calls the license plate into Police Dispatch to verify the vehicle was stolen or involved in a crime.

"The technology allows officers to focus on driving violations or crimes in progress, while the ALPR system runs plates," Sergeant Mark Elliott said.

"It really makes our officers more efficient during their shift."

For more information, call Sergeant Mark Elliott at 952-563-8628.

### EXCELLENT PARTICIPATION BLOOMINGTON'S 2010 CENSUS RATE NUMBERS ARE IN



**B**loomington's mail participation rate in the 2010 Census was 84 percent, matching the 2000 Census mail participation rate and placing Bloomington in the top 20 cities nationwide with populations over 50,000.

Minnesota's statewide participation rate was 80 percent, trailing only Wisconsin at 81 percent. Higher mail participation rates reduce the costs of door-to-door census taking activities and help ensure residents are not undercounted. An accurate count is vital to ensure the City receives its fair share of resources and political representation.

City level population figures from the 2010 Census are anticipated early in the second quarter of 2011.

## RAMBLER REDO SERIES UPDATING TO CREATE SPACE

**I**s your family growing too big for your rambler? Perhaps you just want a little more space, but don't want to sell your home in a down market? The answer may be to build upon the space you already have.

The Rambler Redo series will show you how to address some of the more common updating and remodeling issues in one of the coolest and most common home in Bloomington: the rambler.

The *illustration at right*, created by Nguyen Architects, shows a rambler without any additions or major changes to its original 1950s - 1960s layout.

Over the next few *Briefing* issues, you will see how this typical rambler home

can be drastically transformed through creating new spaces that will not only add square footage, but value, to your home.

#### Kitchen addition

Families spend a lot of time in the kitchen, yet the narrow galley-style of most rambler kitchens isn't always conducive to large family gatherings. Expanding the existing footprint of a kitchen to create space for entertaining will be explored.

#### Exterior and entry addition

A porch addition is a great way to add space and curb appeal to a rambler. Updating an entryway would create a dedicated seating area and added protection from weather.



#### Building up

Adding a second story is probably one of the more dramatic changes that can be made to a home. An upcoming issue will explore design options that add more square footage to your home without sacrificing valuable yard space.

Look for these ideas and more in detail in upcoming issues of the *Briefing*.



FALL REMINDER  
KEEP LEAVES OUT OF THE STREET

As summer turns to fall, leaves on Bloomington trees will change color and eventually begin to pile up around the yard. When raking or blowing leaves, be sure to keep leaves off your street.

Leaves are a significant contributor to poor water quality. When leaves enter storm sewers and travel into ponds and lakes they cause excess algae growth that severely impacts the health of the water. In addition, leaves block storm drains and can cause flooding in neighborhoods. Residents can help by removing leaves and other debris from nearby storm drains.

When bagging leaves and other yard waste, remember to use compostable bags. As of 2010, per a new state law, plastic bags once used to collect fall leaves are no longer accepted by garbage haulers in Bloomington.

For more information, call Environmental Health at 952-563-8934.



BUCKTHORN BUST  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP  
WEED OUT INVASIVE PLANT

Buckthorn, an invasive plant that grows very quickly, is having a major impact on many of Bloomington's wooded areas, choking out native trees, shrubs and other plants.

Join the City of Bloomington in clearing buckthorn from Normandale Lake Park, 5901 West 84 Street, **Saturday, October 9, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Volunteers should come to the Chalet Road parking lot on the day of the event for registration and instructions.

Be sure to wear sturdy shoes, jeans and long-sleeved shirts, and bring eye protection. Some cutting and removal tools will be provided, but volunteers should bring a bow saw, hand saw or hand shears if they have them. Water and snacks will also be provided.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

**WEBSITE KEYWORD: BUCKTHORN.**

*Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action...*

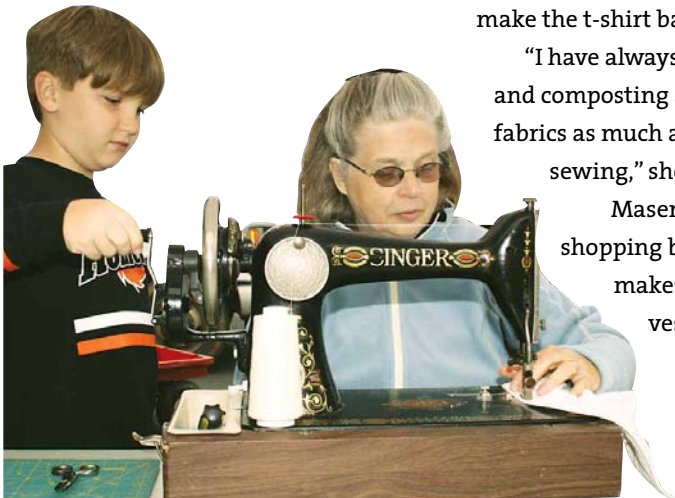
EARTH ACTION HEROES  
FRIENDS OF THE FARMERS MARKET

The Bloomington Farmers Market is attended by close to 3,000 people every Saturday. Some visitors come for the fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables, some for the large assortment of baked goods and cut flowers, and others for the cooking demonstrations and lively entertainment. With everything it has to offer, the Farmers Market has definitely garnered a large fan base. Yet some fans, bordering on Farmers Market fanatics, stand out from the rest.

Ask Bloomington resident of 20 years Ann Pliego, *pictured right*, and she'll tell you she is the Farmers Market's biggest fan.

"I always recommend the Farmers Market to people," Pliego said.

"I get downright excited and rave about the things I buy each week and the market is expanding so much that I



can get pretty much all my shopping needs met."

As a farm girl from Northern Minnesota, Pliego knows how important it is to support small farms. It's one of the reasons she frequents the market. Pliego even brings her own basket.

"I started carrying a basket the first season and people asked me where I got it," Pliego said. "Now I see baskets all the time. People are catching on."

Resident Doree Maser, *pictured below*, has attended the Farmers Market to shop, but it wasn't until recently that she started her own booth. Using her talent for sewing and her passion for reusing and repurposing materials, she spent the first three weekends of the 2010 Farmers Market turning old t-shirts into reusable shopping bags.

Maser uses an antique Singer sewing machine with a hand crank to make the t-shirt bags.

"I have always been into recycling and composting and I use recycled fabrics as much as possible in my sewing," she said.

Maser not only makes shopping bags out of t-shirts, she makes bibs, mittens and vests out of old towels.

The reusable t-shirt-bag-making event was just one of many



sustainable initiatives at the Farmers Market this year.

Several weekends in July and August the Farmers Market teamed up with Bloomington Public Health to offer a bike valet, in which visitors who rode their bikes to the market received a coupon for \$2 off any item.

Using funds from the Statewide Health Improvement Program, Public Health has been working with Farmers Market Coordinator Keri Lahl to shape practices and make environmental changes that improve public access to nutritious foods such as the fruits and vegetables sold at the market.

The Farmers Market, held in the east parking lot of Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, runs **every Saturday, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., through October 16**. The market moves indoors to the Civic Plaza lobby, **November 13 and December 11, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FARMERS MARKET.**

FEDERAL TAX  
CREDITS FOR ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY  
ACT FAST - MOST CREDITS  
EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2010

If you purchase an energy-efficient product or renewable energy system for your home, you may be eligible for a federal tax credit. Included in the tax credit are insulation, high-efficiency windows, doors, heating and air conditioning systems, efficient biomass stoves, roofing materials and non-solar water heaters.

Products must meet energy efficiency standards to qualify for the tax credit. The tax credit expires December 31, 2010.

The tax credit can only be applied to materials used in existing homes. New construction does not qualify. The house must be the owner's principal residence.

For more information, including a complete list of qualified products, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

DO YOUR PART : ACT SUSTAINABLY

SAVING YOU ENERGY, TIME AND MONEY  
HOME ENERGY AUDITS

Do you want your home to be more energy efficient, but you've procrastinated when it comes to doing anything about it? The Home Energy Squad can help make it easy to save money.

The Squad was created by Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy to help homeowners identify how to conserve energy and save money when it comes to their electric and natural gas costs.

A team of energy experts will assess your home's energy efficiency and install immediate energy saving devices. You only pay for the cost of materials. The cost of labor (a \$200 value) is covered by Xcel and CenterPoint.

Choose the package that best fits your needs. Homeowners can expect to save around \$120 a year on energy costs.

Basic Squad Service is \$50 and includes a high-efficiency shower head, kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators, and refrigerator and water heater thermometers. Plus, choose two of the following: ten spiral compact fluorescent lights, programmable thermostat or weatherstripping for one door.

Premium Squad Service, including all of the above and more, is available for \$80.

In addition, Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy offer rebates on certain energy-efficient products and services. Combine these rebates with the Federal tax credits for energy efficiency, *see article left*, and save even more money.



For more information on the Home Energy Squad program, call 866-222-4595 or visit the City's website.

**WEBSITE KEYWORD: ENERGY EFFICIENCY.**

## CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY



### SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION AWARDED GRANTS DONALDSON FOUNDATION HELPS SUPPORT JAPANESE PROGRAMS

Bloomington Sister City Organization (BSCO) was recently awarded two grants from the Donaldson Corporation.

One of the grants, in the amount of \$8,500, will be used to support the BSCO-sponsored Japanese language teaching assistant program in Bloomington Public Schools.

A second, \$10,000 grant will be used to support the high school and college student delegation exchange program that offers Bloomington students the opportunity to visit Izumi City, Japan-area schools and be immersed in Japanese culture.

## HUMAN SERVICES

### CONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND IMPROVING LIVES

Human Services' mission is to provide exceptional programs and services to all Bloomington residents. By acting as a catalyst to enhance the quality of life and services for residents through education, community partnerships, advocacy and resources, Human Services makes a difference.

For more information, call Human Services at 952-563-8733 or TTY 952-563-8740. To sign up for e-mail updates, go to our website, click on [E-Subscribe](#) and subscribe to "Human Services."

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HUMAN SERVICES.

### POEMS UNITE A COMMUNITY POETRY CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

A poetry contest coordinated by the Human Services Senior Program was held this past July.

More than 75 poems were submitted in a variety of lengths and genres. Participants were allowed to submit up to two, original, unpublished poems.

The names of the winners are:

- 1st place – Connie Claire Szarke, *Homage to a Dying Bird*.
- 2nd place – Karen Molosky, *The Open Book*.
- 3rd place – Cheryl Weibye Wilke, *All the Same, but Different* and Richard Hagen, *More than a Game*.
- 1st honorable mention – Carol Hobart, *Memories*.
- 2nd honorable mention – Luke Anderson, *Old Tucker*.
- 3rd honorable mention – Debbie Pea, *Writing Poetry*.
- 4th honorable mention – Ken Grosch, *Rest Area*.
- 5th honorable mention – Ron Palmer, *Tangled Jewelry*.

Look for information about the 2011 poetry contest in the February *Briefing*.



First place winner Connie Claire Szarke with judges.



### CELEBRATING SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY ANNUAL VETERANS' APPRECIATION LUNCH

Human Services invites you to attend a special lunch event honoring veterans on **Monday, November 8, 11:30 a.m.**, at Civic Plaza.

This special lunch will feature entertainment, and a presentation by keynote speaker Sergeant John Kreisel.

Kreisel served in Iraq with the Minnesota National Guard during Operation Enduring Freedom, where he was injured and lost both of his legs.

To make a reservation, call 952-563-4948 or 952-563-4944 V/TTY.

Reservations must be made by November 3.

### A SPECIAL PHOTO REMEMBRANCE VETERANS' PHOTOS ON DISPLAY AT CREEKSIDE

A veterans' photo wall will be on display at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, during the entire month of November.

The photo wall display began in 2003 and has since grown to more than 200 photos of veterans, featuring men and women from all branches of military service.

To submit a photo of a veteran for this annual recognition, visit Creekside Community Center.



### HOLIDAY-THEMED FUN DON'T MISS THE YUMMY "PARTY OF THE MONTH"

Human Services will host two holiday-themed lunches in October and November. Come dressed in your best Halloween costume and have a spooky good time, **Thursday, October 28**.

A Thanksgiving meal complete with turkey and all the trimmings will be served on **Thursday, November 18**.

Reservations may be made in advance by calling 952-563-4948.

## SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

### HELPING HANDS AT CREEKSIDE IN THE BUSINESS OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Staff from the Minnesota School of Business have been volunteering at Human Services' "Party of the Month" since last spring.

An average of six staff members assist with this special event by setting tables, serving lunch and visiting with the 160 - 170 older adults who attend.

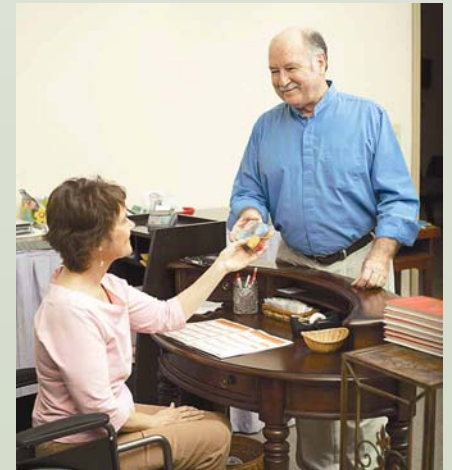
Minnesota School of Business Volunteer Coordinator Katie Mader said Minnesota Business School employees enjoy being able to give back to the community in a tangible way.

"Who knew that serving food could be so much fun?" Mader said.

"Delivering meals while laughing and joking around with seniors has really brightened our volunteers' days."

According to Mader, word is spreading about the fun volunteer opportunities at Creekside.

"We're getting more and more requests to volunteer at the Party of the Month every day," Mader said.



### RESOURCES AND WORKSHOPS DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

October is National Disability Employment and Awareness Month and the Bloomington Human Rights Commission and Disability Employment Awareness Committee will be presenting a series of educational workshops.

The workshops are designed for individuals with disabilities who are seeking employment resources and job-related skills. A number of the workshops will be focused on resume writing and preparation, interviewing skills and general job seeking resources.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT.



### WI-FI ACCESS AT CREEKSIDE

The August issue of *People2People* incorrectly stated that computers were available at in the Creekside library. Wi-Fi is available at Creekside for those who bring their own laptops to the facility.



### MAKE A DIFFERENCE STEP UP IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Human Services has a variety of volunteer opportunities available to connect you to your community. You can build your resume, make new friends, help others and more.

If you are interested in working with youth, families, multicultural communities, active, aging adults or people with disabilities, visit the City's website or call the number above.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: VOLUNTEER.



## MAKE FIRE PREVENTION A PRIORITY

### SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

Fire Prevention Week may be over, but that doesn't mean that you should stop focusing on fire safety – especially considering the latest statistics showing that two out of three residential fire deaths occurred in homes with no working smoke alarm.

To increase your ability to survive a fire in your home, install smoke alarms on every level, including the basement. Smoke alarms are recommended both inside and outside of bedrooms. Battery-operated smoke alarms are easy and inexpensive to install when other options are not available.

Smoke alarms must be maintained. Check the test button on alarms monthly to determine whether they respond. Replace the batteries at least once a year and replace the whole smoke detector every 8 to 10 years. Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms with lithium batteries last for 10 years.

Newer alarms have wireless connections that cause all alarms in a house to sound when one goes off.

Hard-wired electric smoke alarms should be tested monthly and if they have backup batteries, the batteries should be replaced every year.

A smoke alarm with a dead or missing battery is as ineffective as having no smoke alarm at all. Disabling a smoke alarm or removing the battery can be a deadly mistake.

Use Fire Prevention Week as a reminder to check your smoke alarms and keep your family safe.

Minnesota State Building Code requires smoke detectors in all bedrooms and on all levels of a home.

For more information, contact Bloomington Fire Prevention at 952-563-8933 or Fire Marshal Gene Dugal at 952-563-8967.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH.**



## DID YOU KNOW?

### FIRST TO IGNITE

According to the National Fire Prevention Association, holiday decorations are the cause of more than 1,000 reported home fires each year.

When unplugging holiday decorations, be sure to use the gripping area on the plugs. Never pull the cord to unplug electrical devices.

## ROUTINE INSPECTIONS

### BEHIND THE SCENES WITH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

It's no surprise that hospitality is Bloomington's number one industry – there are countless reasons to visit and spend the night in Bloomington, including world-renowned shopping, award-winning restaurants and plenty of options for recreation, just to name a few. For all these reasons and more, Bloomington was recently voted “Best Staycation” – or best vacation spent close to home – by *City Pages*.

Bloomington's Environmental Health Division helps the city keep this title by making sure Bloomington's hotels and restaurants provide the safest environment possible for visitors.

For more than 40 years, Environmental Health has conducted regular inspections of food, pool and lodging facilities.

The City's highly accredited health inspectors have bachelor's or master's degrees in environmental health or related fields. In addition to certification from the State of Minnesota, several have additional specialized training in epidemiology, food safety education and swimming pool operation.

Environmental Health typically conducts as many as eight unannounced inspections per year at hotels. During these visits, inspectors focus on three important locations: the restaurant kitchen, hotel guest rooms and swimming pools.



Here's what inspectors look for:

#### Restaurant

Restaurant kitchens in Bloomington receive two routine and two follow-up inspections per year. Environmental Health inspectors have extensive training in food safety and the risk factors that contribute to outbreaks of foodborne illness. During a food inspection, inspectors note violations of the State Food Code. Critical items, if not in compliance, are more likely than other violations to contribute to food contamination and illness.

The top five critical risk factors for food contamination and illness identified by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention are:

- Improper holding temperatures.
- Inadequate cooking.
- Contaminated equipment.
- Food from unsafe sources.
- Poor personal hygiene.

#### Hotel guest rooms

When an inspector enters a hotel room, they scan for general sanitation and upkeep. They talk to hotel staff and provide basic training. The inspector tests the operation of fire alarms and hot water temperature, and makes sure linens are washed and changed between guests. A thorough hotel inspection



also includes scanning for bed bugs and other pests.

In addition, inspectors also check all storage and vending areas of the hotel.

Although not as visible as the City's police and fire departments, Environmental Health is working behind the scenes every day to make sure the City's restaurants, pools and hotels are clean and safe for customers.

#### Pool and spa

Pools receive two to three routine inspections per year. Inspectors check indoor and outdoor pools and spas for correct chemical concentrations. Maintaining the proper pH and chlorine levels prevents bacteria growth and disease.

Inspectors also check that handrails and ladders are secure, safety equipment is in place and rules and safety signs are clearly posted.

For more information, contact Environmental Health at 952-563-8970.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH.**

## MEET A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

### Q & A WITH LAURA MCCARTHY

**V**olunteer Firefighter and Fire Inspector Laura McCarthy will be one of the many firefighters present at the annual Fire Station Open House on October 9, *see cover page*. We recently asked her to answer a few questions about her job.

**Q How long have you been active in the Bloomington Fire Department?**

**A** I've been with the Fire Department for 20 years and with the Bloomington Fire Prevention office as a Fire Inspector for 11 years.

**Q How many hours a week are you on call?**

**A** When I am not working for the City, I am on call for the Fire Department. Also, depending on my work schedule, there are times when I'm able to respond to calls during the work day.

**Q Is it difficult to work full time and volunteer for the City?**

**A** I have the best of both worlds when it comes to working full time and volunteering for Bloomington. I get to help people in many different capacities, both as an inspector and a firefighter. At times it can be difficult to do all the other things in life that need doing.

**Q What would you say is the biggest challenge you've faced?**

**A** The biggest challenge with both jobs is juggling time spent with family, going to school or engaging in hobbies.

**Q Do you have a “scariest moment?”**

**A** One incident that happened a few years ago was pretty scary. Another firefighter and I fell part way



through a burning floor. We held on to the floor joists to keep from falling completely through. With the help of other firefighters, we escaped with only a couple bruises.

**Q Any interesting tidbits you could offer that people may not know about you?**

**A** I like almost anything written by Stephen King, I enjoy vampire mysteries and I have a strong interest in anything related to WWII.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FIRE VOLUNTEERS.**



## TRICK-OR-TREAT PARTY ANNUAL HALLOWEEN BASH

**B**loomington's Annual citywide Halloween Party takes place **Sunday, October 31, 5 - 7 p.m.**, at Northwestern Health Sciences University, West 84th Street and Penn Avenue South. Preschoolers through fourth graders, accompanied by an adult, are invited. Activities include "Trick or Treat Alley," games, prizes and much more. Admission is free. Donations of nonperishable food items to the VEAP Food Shelf are greatly appreciated. The event is sponsored by the Bloomington Breakfast Optimist Club, Northwestern Health Sciences University and the City of Bloomington.

**WEBSITE KEYWORD: HALLOWEEN.**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### CALLING ALL WINTER-LOVERS OUTDOOR ICE RINK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**W**inter is just around the corner and Parks and Recreation is looking for volunteer outdoor ice rink attendants to help at neighborhood warming houses available to the community.

Responsibilities include opening and closing park shelter buildings, supervising rink activities, interacting with skaters and performing basic maintenance. Rinks are typically open mid-December through mid-February, depending on weather conditions. The application deadline is **Friday, October 29**. Training takes place in November for qualified volunteers.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: VOLUNTEER PARKS.**



### TIME TO TUMBLE L'IL FLIPS WITH L'IL FLIPSTERS BEGINS

**L**'il Flipsters Gymnastics is here again for children ages 30 months to kindergarten. This mobile gymnastics organization provides gymnastics training and motor skill development in a safe and fun environment. New sessions begin every month.

Classes are held at Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street, Tuesday and Friday mornings and afternoons. Classes are \$27 per three-week session and \$36 for a four-week session.

**WEBSITE KEYWORD: FLIPSTERS.**



## ADULT SPORTS

### ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE

**P**arks and Recreation is now accepting team registrations for the 2010 - 2011 Adult 5-on-5 Basketball Leagues. Leagues are offered on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. All games are officiated during the 10-week season.

### BORN AGAIN VOLLEYBALL



**T**he Born Again Jocks volleyball league welcomes men, 55 years and older, of all skill levels and playing abilities. Games are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays **through April 30** at Jefferson High School Activity Center, 4001 West 102nd Street. Warm-ups start at 8:45 a.m. Games begin at 9 a.m.

## CENTER FOR THE ARTS

**L**ocated in Bloomington Civic Plaza at the corner of West 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing six arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, visit [www.bloomingtonartcenter.com](http://www.bloomingtonartcenter.com) and click on Exhibitions, or call 952-563-8575.

### GALLERY HOURS

Hours:	<b>M - F</b>	<b>8 a.m. - 10 p.m.</b>
	<b>Sa</b>	<b>9 a.m. - 5 p.m.</b>
	<b>Su</b>	<b>1 - 10 p.m.</b>

For all theater tickets, call the Box Office at 952-563-8575.



### INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

Bloomington Art Center's *Annual Members' Juried Exhibition*, featuring work by members runs **October 22 - December 3**. Artists' reception is October 22, 6 - 8 p.m.

### ATRIUM GALLERY

*Digital Dreams of Life*, featuring artist Jessica Lee Shimek runs **through November 14**.

*Instructor/Student Art Show* runs **November 18 - January 7**. Artists reception is November 18, 6 - 8 p.m.

### BLACK BOX THEATER

#### BLOOMINGTON CIVIC THEATRE ON OUR OWN

*On Our Own*, by NEO Cabaret, featuring songs and stories for the holiday season runs **December 3 - 19**. Tickets are \$18 adults; \$16 seniors and students.

### SCHNEIDER THEATER



#### MEDALIST CONCERT BAND A SALUTE TO VETERANS

Join the Medalist Concert Band and its musical director, Professor Jerry Luckhardt, for a concert honoring the men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces, **Sunday, November 21, 4 p.m.** Tickets are \$12 adults; \$10 seniors and students.

#### CONTINENTAL BALLET COMPANY NUTCRACKER BALLET

Nutcracker Ballet performances are **Fridays and Saturdays, December 3 - 12, 7:30 p.m.**, and **Sundays, 3 p.m.** Tickets are \$24 adults; \$18 seniors and students; \$12 children under 13.



#### THURSDAY MUSICAL

*Thursday Musical* announces its 119th concert season. Enjoy classical music by outstanding musicians from the Twin Cities. Concerts are **Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., October 21, November 18, December 2**. Single tickets are \$10 at the door. Season ticket subscriptions are \$60.

#### BLOOMINGTON CIVIC THEATRE JACQUES BREL IS ALIVE AND WELL & LIVING IN PARIS

Bloomington Civic Theatre presents *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well & Living in Paris*, directed by Jon Cranney, **October 22 - November 20**. Tickets are \$28, adults; \$25 students and seniors.



### BLOOMINGTON COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION

#### BY THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY

**B**loomington Community Access Television (BCAT16) is a public forum dedicated to free speech. Individuals and organizations learn the basics of television production to create television shows that are cablecast to Bloomington cable subscribers on Channel 16. Classes and production equipment are available for all members of the community.

Improvements at BCAT16 provide increased opportunities for community members to make creative and engaging television, share important stories and learn video production skills.

Classes were developed to make it easy for anyone to learn basic video production, including digital camera operation, studio production and editing with Final Cut Pro.

In addition to classes, there is a wide variety of programming to enjoy on Channel 16. For more information, visit [BCAT16.org](http://BCAT16.org) or call 952-563-4980.

**WEBSITE KEYWORD: BCAT.**



GENERAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2 ON THE BALLOT

- U.S. Representative, District 3
- State Senators, Districts 40, 41, 63
- State Representatives, Districts 40B, 41B, 63B
- Governor and Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary of State
- State Auditor
- Attorney General
- County Sheriff
- County Attorney
- Three Rivers Park Commissioner, District 5
- Soil and Water Conservation Supervisors, Districts 2, 4
- Judicial Offices

SAMPLE BALLOT

Sample ballots are available to view online.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: VOTING.

VOTING ASSISTANCE

Tell the election judge if you need assistance at your polling place. All sites are accessible and have AutoMARK voter-assist terminals to help voters who have difficulty in marking the optical scan paper ballot.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Qualified citizens must be registered to vote. Preregistration closes Tuesday, October 12, 5 p.m. Voter registration applications are available from most government offices and on the City’s website. If you are unable to preregister, you can still register at your polling place on Election Day with one of the proofs of residence authorized by Minnesota law. A complete list of Election Day voter registration proof of residence documents is available on the City’s website. You can update or renew your driver’s license or Minnesota I.D. card at the Motor Vehicle Office at 9930 Logan Avenue South.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Minnesota law allows absentee voting for individuals with special circumstances. Voters are only eligible to receive an absentee ballot for one of the following reasons:

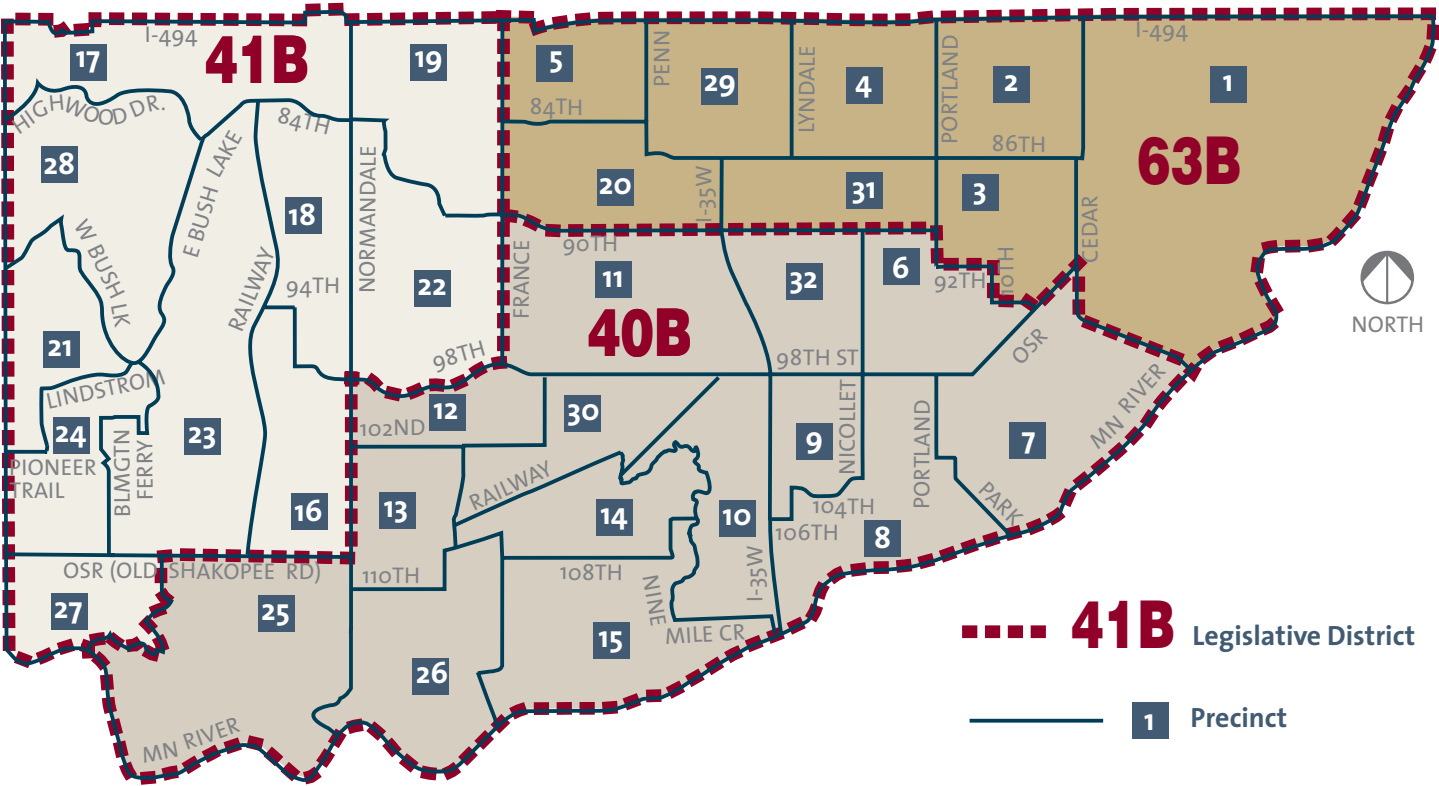
- Disabled or ill.
- An election judge serving in another precinct.
- Absent from the precinct.
- Unable to go to the polling place due to a religious holiday or belief.

Absentee ballot applications are available at Civic Plaza or online.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: VOTING.

2010 BLOOMINGTON POLLING PLACES

POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY.



Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
1 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center 3815 American Boulevard East	West entrance Visitors lot (W)
2 Portland Avenue Methodist Church 8000 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
3 Cedar Valley Church 8600 Bloomington Avenue	South entrance – Door E, South lot
4 Unity South Church 7950 1st Avenue South	Main entrance South lot
5 Southtown Baptist Church 2600 West 82nd Street	Main entrance (W) Northwest lot
6 Bloomington Lutheran Church 9350 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance North lot
7 Indian Mounds Elementary School 9801 - 11th Avenue South	Main entrance (N) Northwest lot
8 Riverside Reformed Church 10201 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance East lot
9 Nativity of Mary School 9901 East Bloomington Freeway	NE school entrance Northeast lot
10 St. Luke’s Lutheran Church 1701 West Old Shakopee Road	Northeast entrance North lot
11 Bloomington Nat’l. Guard Armory 3300 West 98th Street	Main entrance (W) West lot
12 Crosspoint Church 9801 France Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East lot
13 Hubert Olson Elementary School 4501 West 102nd Street	Main entr. (NW) West lot – disabled use front drive
14 Mount Hope Lutheran Church 3601 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance (S) South lot
15 Westwood Elementary School 3701 West 108th Street	Main entrance (N) West lot
16 Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church 9920 Normandale Boulevard South	Northeast entrance (Left doors) North lot
17 Peace Lutheran Church 8600 East Bush Lake Road	Main entrance North lot
18 The Church of St. Edward’s 9401 Nesbitt Avenue South	SW entrance Upper level, SW lot
19 St. Stephen Lutheran Church 8400 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
20 Washburn Elementary School 8401 Xerxes Avenue South	Main entrance Northeast lot

**CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION STATUS ONLINE**

The Office of the Secretary of State is offering voters an easy way to check whether they are registered to vote.

Visit [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us) and select Voter Registration Lookup Service. Once you provide your name, birth date and address, the service will tell you whether you are registered to vote at your address. The service also provides information on upcoming election dates, polling places and more, all specific to your location.

**Locate your precinct polling place prior to Election Day by using the above map or by visiting our website.**

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: POLLING PLACE.

Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
21 Sunrise Park Shelter 9401 Bloomington Ferry Road	Only entrance (N) North lot
22 Normandale Hills Elem. School 9501 Toledo Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
23 Community of the Cross Lutheran Church 10701 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (N) North lot
24 Bloomington Lutheran School 10600 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (S) South lot – disabled use East side
25 Bethany Missionary Church 6900 Auto Club Road	West entrance West and North lots
26 Southwood Center 4901 West 112th Street	West entrance West lot
27 Bethany Missionary Gymnasium 6900 Auto Club Road	Main entrance South lot
28 Bloomington Fire Station #6 8601 Lakeview Road	Main entrance North lot and street
29 Christ the King Lutheran Church 8600 Fremont Avenue South	SW entrance Southwest lot
30 Oak Grove Presbyterian Church 2200 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance Northeast lot
31 St. Bonaventure Catholic Church 901 East 90th Street (Social Hall)	Main entrance East lot
32 Oxboro Evangelical Free Church 9431 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance North lot